

REMARKS

Claims 7-17 are withdrawn. Claim 4 is canceled. Claims 1- 3 and 5-6 remain pending, and are currently amended.

A proper IDS is attached, adding US Patents 5,797,722 and 5,223,754 which read on devices having sealed hollow shafts which convey water. The disclosed exemplary sealed hollow shafts are comparable to the claimed hollow hinge, which is a means of conveying water from a stationary element, such as upright liquid conduit, to a rotating element, i.e. a gate.

The drawings are objected to as they do not show a “solid plate” as claimed in claim 4 or a “second member” as claimed in claim 5. Claim 4 is currently canceled, and claim 5 is amended to no longer read on a “second member”, which was merely a repetitious alternate phrase for the “second moveable gate”. The drawings are also objected to as they fail to show the detail of the nozzle to understand adjustable with respect to the conical shape of the spray, the direction of spray, and the volume of liquid dispensed. Claim 2 is amended to read to on its intended function, to effect decontamination of a person passing by the gate assembly.

The Examiner objected to “A” in the dependent claims. Applicant’s pending claims have been amended to read “The”.

The Examiner has taken exception with “the hinge is hollow....” as being indefinite. Applicant’s use of the “hollow hinge” is descriptive in that it applies to a gate. The Examiner may be more familiar with a sealed hollow shaft, which are commonly employed in the art providing cooling water to pumps, motors, calendars and cooling cans used in converting processes, and the specification has been amended to allude to this technology. US Patents 5,797,722 and 5,223,757 describe devices with sealed hollow, and the updated IDS includes these references.

Claims 1-3 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated Caron et al. (US Patent 5,759,276). Applicant’s invention, as discussed on page 6, lines 7-10 is dual purpose. *“The invention provides apparatus for decontaminating persons and objects, and securing and limiting access to specific areas. The invented apparatus consists of a movable gate made of liquid conduits with spray nozzles positioned along the conduits. During normal operation, the apparatus functions as a normal gate. It opens, closes, and can be locked. When activated for decontamination, the gate is unfolded and opened....”* Caron et al. teaches a dedicated washing chamber. It is not a gate, which would normally only be used as a decontaminating apparatus except under the most dire circumstances, as decontamination is rarely required for the public as a whole. Caron et al. does not teach a locked gate for securing access to specific areas. The 102(b) rejection is respectfully overcome, as Caron et al. does not teach a locked gate assembly.

Claims 1-4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated FR285707 (hereinafter Casemajor). Examiner has not supplied this reference, and it is not listed in the Notice of References Cited, nor is it one of Applicant's references. The Examiner should at least supply an abstract. The Abstract reads as follows:

The tunnel (1) is formed from one or more modular enclosures for which the longitudinal corners of the walls are replaced by cut-off corners (13). The tunnel is equipped with a low capacity liquid re-wash jig (14). Cleaning is effected by means of spray jets (10) located on a series of fixed galleries and on a tipping gallery (11) provided with omni-directional jet nozzles and carried by an articulated support (12).

The drawings are below. As is readily apparent from the abstract and the attached drawings, Casemajor does not teach a dual function gate with a lock, but a decontamination tunnel. The 102(b) rejection is respectfully overcome in light of the amendments and the remarks.

Claims 5 and 6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Caron et al. Examiner asserts that it would be obvious set up the gates so that the spray nozzles overlapped. The invented apparatus consists of a movable gate made of liquid conduits with spray nozzles positioned along the conduits. During normal operation, the apparatus functions as a normal gate. It opens, closes, and can be locked. When activated for decontamination, the gate is unfolded and opened." Caron et al. teaches a dedicated washing chamber, which is not suitable as a gate. It may be suitable as a cage, but applicant is not claiming a cage. The 103(a) rejection is respectfully overcome.

Further, the subject application is now believed to be in order for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested. Please address all further correspondence to the new Firm Name. The customer number has been changed to reflect the change in name.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "F. Rhett Brockington". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized "B" at the end.

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